30/1-121

UNITED NATIONS DAY 1975

by

General K.M. Cariappa (Retd)

Today, we the Asiaafrican Goodwill Society are celebrating the birthday of the great World Organization - the UNITED NATIONS - which is one that is International in origin and Universal in observance. The day belongs to no single Nation, but is shared by all. It does honour to and is honoured by peoples of many different faiths and philosophies but its unique quality is that it emphasizes the common ties that unite them. It is the DAY which all lands and peoples can acclaim - THE UNITED NATIONS DAY. The "Aims and Objects" of our Society and the charter of United Nations Organization, though worded differently, are basically and fundamentally identical, in principles i.e., peace and goodwill between Nations and no more WARS.

The event, this celebration commemorates, is the coming into force of the United Nations Charter on 24th October 1945. The signing of the Charter by fifty one Nations and the establishment of the United Nations Organization represented the beginning of the greatest effort by the peocles of the world to be rid of WARS and to build together real everlasting PEACE.

During its early years, the United Nations existed under a shadow of fear. In the beginning it was the fear that the problems arising out of World War II might resolve themselves not in peace, but in a new World War. Later it was the fear the local wars would spread to world-wide conflicts. In this period of fear there has been the frightening transition from conventional weapons to nuclear missiles in nuclear space age.

The world of 1975 is, indeed, in many ways differ ent from that of October 1945, when the United Nations was born. But it is still composed of human beings, striving towards the ideal of universal peace and security, with freedom and social justice for all mankind - people who have been brought much closer by technological and scientific achievements to the concept of "ONE WORLD". As a human endeavour, it is not without its imperfections; but thirty years' experience has confirmed the nobility of its purpose and the necessity of International co-operation as the means to achieve that purpose.

These first thirty years have not been easy ones. The promise of big-power harmony gave way to "COLD WAR" distrust. Smouldering tensions between Nations have sometimes flared into open hostilities. The vast gap between technically advanced and under developed countries, still unclosed, has posed economic problems with far-reaching consequences. The rapid advance to sovereign statehood in accordance with the goals of the Charter, of formerly dependent peoples, especially in Africa, also posed problems of adjustment both for the former administering powers and for the new States faced with the task of building the administrative and economic basis for

..2/-

their newly won Independence. Unprecedented population growth has added fresh urgency to such long-standing problems as the shortage by millions in food supplies, health services, housing and educational facilities. The benefits that could result from the mastery of nuclear energy and other great discoveries of science are clouded by the threat of civilization's destruction should they be used for other than peaceful purposes. The war in space is the latest threat to peace.

A sober appraisal thirty years after the Charter was signed shows that the world needs the United Nations more than ever. The fact that full application of all the Charter's provisions has not been possible because of continuing mistrust does not invalidate the Charter; rather it underlines the importance of the United Nations as the means for these contacts and negotiations, public and private, most likely to heal conflict without loss of prestige to either side, and for reducing the dangers to PEACE.

The Organization itself progresses steadily towards universality of membership. The fifty-one original member countries have grown to one hundred and forty two today. The near future will see the admission of many more dependent countries following their attainment of statehood. Each new Member can add strength to the Organization's moral force and enrich its collective experience.

Proof of its living quality has been the way the United Nations machinery and methods have shown themselves adaptable to new situations. On the political side, it has evolved flexible methods for dealing with disputes. To the combination of public debate and continuous diplomatic contacts made possible at the United Nations Headquarters, has been added the development of the Office of the Secretary General as representing an independent position for the Organization as a whole in the conciliation of disputes and in the upholding of Charter principles and purposes. Peace is precarious and welfare uneven. Two power blocs dominated the world, at the United Nations and elsewhere. Neither is strong enough to impose its will on the other without a war which would almost certainly destroy both. Neither can decisively strengthen its political power position by securing the active support of the rest of the world.

Nevertheless, since 1945, conflicts between them and between smaller nations have been resolved. In the early years the record of the United Nations intervention was impressive, in Palestine, Iran, Northern Greece, Indonesia, the Suez, the Lebanon, Indo-China, West Irian and in the Congo.

In the economic field, the disinterested research, surveys and planning carried out by the United Nations have helped provide the ground work on which sound national and regional economic policies can be based. Though still small in relation to bilateral aid programmes, United Nations technical assistance and its recently launched Special Fund and provision to requesting governments of operational and executive personnel have helped developing countries acquire the skills, the men, money and moral backing needed to advance their economies

../3/-

and raise their living standards. Multinational aid channelled through the United Nations has the added value that both donor and recipient Nations participate as partners and that the aid given or received carries no political or psychological obligations.

Both for rural community development programmes and for new programmes to cope with rapaid urbanization, the key obstacle in most countries is lack of trained personnel. The United Nations has been giving close attention to this problem and has made a number of technical studies on the content and methods of training personnel for a wide range of social programme. Training activities assume a central place in the advisory social welfare programme.

On the social side, the activities of the United Nations have quickened the conscience of the world to recognize the worth and dignity of human individual. Millions of children have benefitted from the feeding and welfare programme of UNICEF and now, in its Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the United Nations has proclaimed that mankind at large "owes to the child the best it has to give".

The United Nations has already become part of the fabric of International life into which it is slowly weaving a new pattern of human solidarity. These years have proved the worth of the Organization and the need of its merber Governments and peoples for the essential services it can render in the preservation of PEACE and the solution of the other problems of International life in the spirit of the Charter.

If the United Nations is to continue to develop, small and middle powers must play an increasingly important part, dictated neither by their own narrow National interests nor by pressures or promises from the big powers. Only if they play this part responsibly, independently and with restraint and wisdom, is the United Nations likely to continue to function as it should.

It is the smaller and middle Powers, which through the United Nations, can create a world opinion based on something other than an armed might, the use of which is becoming increasingly suicidal. They can express man's passionate interest in PEACE and survival and in the freedom which could make survival worth while.

Principal organs of the United Nations

1. The General Assembly
2. The Security Council
3. The Economic and Social Council
4. The Trusteeship Council
5. The International Court of Justice
6. The Secretariat

..40

Agencies of the United Nations

1. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna
2. International Labour Organization, Geneva
3. Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome
4. UNESCO, Paris
5. World Health Organization , Geneva
6. The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), Washington
7. International Development Association (IDA), Washington
8. International Finance Corporation, (IFC), Washington
9. International Monetary Fund, Washington
10. International Civil Aviation Organization, Montreal
11. Universal Postal Union, Berne
12. International Telecommunications Union, Geneva
13. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva
14. Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, London
15. International Trade (GATT), Geneva (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)
16. UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)

The best way of strengthening the United Nations in the effort to realise its ideal is by asking it to do things of which it is capable; not those which it cannot do and where failure in an attempt would discredit and weaken it. So far, the Charter of the United Nations has been found to be sufficiently flexible for this purpose. Changes could be made, of course, which would improve the Organisation.

The 30th Anniversary session of the UNITED NATIONS started on 16th September 1975. The following new Members have been recently admitted:

1. Mozambique (Attained Independence on 25 June 1975).
2. Cape Verde Islands (Attained Independence on 5 July 1975).

..5/-

• Sao Tome and Principe Islands (Attained Independence on 12 July 1975)

Papua-New Guinea (Attained Independence on 16 September 197
is likely to be admitted shortly.

The President of the 30th Session is Mr. Taston Thorn, Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

This is why we celebrate United Nations Day, the anniversary that all lands and peoples can, and do acclian, with hopes and prayers that this world Organization will bring ever-lasting PEACE and happiness to mankind by perhaps succeeding in establishing ONE WORLD ORDER with free trade, free Colonization and freedom for mankind to act and live as free children of GOD.

ASIAFRICAN GOODWILL SOCIETY
1 Jayamahal Road
Bangalore
Karnataka State
INDIA

K. M. CARIAPPA
General (Retired)
7 November 1975